

Funding Source for Farmers' Markets and other Gardening Activities

Nominations are being solicited for Garden Crusader Awards. A cash award and a gift certificate to Gardener's Supply in the amount of \$2,500 each will be given to a grand prize winner in the United States who is using gardening to improve the community. There are five categories and a total of 18 prize awards at various levels. There is no age requirement. Organizations may apply by choosing one person to represent the group. For more information and a link to the application, go to, http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=285900037
Deadline: June 1, 2010

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Merrigan Announces Availability of \$5 Million in Funding for Farmers Market Promotion Program

This year FMPP will emphasize three priorities during the 2010 grant period: (1) focus on the recruitment and retention of new farmers to participate at farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer farm marketing outlets; (2) develop professional expertise for farmers market managers, farmers/vendors, boards and organizations to effectively manage and/or operate farmers markets and other direct marketing enterprises; and (3) improve food access in local, rural and underserved communities to promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms.

Information on how to apply for a grant will be published in the Mar. 1, 2010, issue of the Federal Register and posted on the AMS website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FMPP>. Applications and proposals must be received by AMS no later than the close of business on April 15, 2010. Applications received after April 15, 2010, will not be considered.